



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager 860-441-6630

Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, February 07, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2012-0013 Proclamation Recognizing Ed Pasch

Proclamation - TC

2012-0044 Proclamation Recognizing Dollar Tree Store

Proclamation - TC

Recess for Pre-Budget Public Hearing

2012-0009 FYE 2013 Budget

Referral

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0041 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 17, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0038 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathleen Miner - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Utilities - \$788.27 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$9.28 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Nancy Jewett - \$300.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lawrence and Beverly Lacerte - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Gerald and Elizabeth Newton - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Charles Rogers - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Jay and Cynthia Kane - \$800.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Shoreline Diving Services, Inc. - \$1,200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2003-0198	Public Water & Sewer on Flanders Road/Industrial area	Referral
2007-0238	Groton Heights School Reuse Task Force - Update	Referral
2010-0242	Meeting with Commanding Officer of the Sub Base	Referral
2011-0058	Town of Groton Facebook Page Postings	Referral
2011-0162	City of Groton and Groton Long Point Highway Budgets	Referral
2011-0165	Status of Mystic Education Center	Referral
2011-0175	October 2011 Revaluation - Update	Referral
2011-0214	Zoning Commission Meeting Procedure Inquiry	Referral
2011-0234	Historic District Commission Concerns	Referral
2011-0240	Potential Sale of Town-Owned Land	Referral
2012-0028	Police Union Working Agreement	Referral
2012-0030	Appointment of Town Auditor	Referral
2012-0032	2012 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course and Amendment to Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities	Referral
2012-0036	City of Groton FYE 2011 CIP Reallocation	Referral
2012-0042	Public Hearing on the FYE 2013 Proposed Budget	Referral
2012-0045	USS Groton Sail Committee	Referral

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager
- e. Town Attorney

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

WHEREAS, the Town's contract with the current auditing firm, Blum Shapiro of West Hartford, expired upon completion of the FYE 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and

WHEREAS, staff is satisfied with the work that Blum Shapiro has performed for the Town for the last seven years and feels their knowledge of the Town of Groton and its financial practices is desirable, and

WHEREAS, if hired, Blum Shapiro has stated there will be no price increase in the first year of the contract, a 1% increase in the second year, and a 1% increase in the third year, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the firm of Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. is hereby appointed as the Auditor to the Town of Groton for the three fiscal years, FYE 2012 through FYE 2014, with the Town to have the option of extending that selection and contract for an additional two fiscal years.

Legislative History

1/18/2012	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
1/24/2012	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Sal Pandolfo, Director of Finance, noted the Blum Shapiro's audit for FYE 2011 was the final audit under their contract with the Town. At this point, the Town can either issue a Request for Proposals or negotiate with Blum Shapiro for another three year engagement. Mr. Pandolfo stated he would like to stay with Blum Shapiro because of their knowledge of the Town. Blum Shapiro audits 55 out of 169 municipalities.

Mayor Somers asked how the Town can be assured that the firm is offering a good price if there is no bid process. Mr. Pandolfo suggested that the size and complexity of Groton are factors. There are two other firms that audit municipalities of Groton's size. Whenever the Town has gone out to bid for audits in the past, the price has been higher because of the learning curve. This would not be an issue with Blum Shapiro. The last audit cost \$81,300. The downside of going out to bid would be a potentially higher price and having to instruct the firm on the Town of Groton. If The Town retains Blum Shapiro, the rate would not increase for 2012. There would be a 1% increase the second year and a 1% increase the third year.

Discussion followed on comparative cost, the effort associated with issuing an RFP, and the comfort level with Blum Shapiro. A majority of the Council expressed comfort with engaging Blum Shapiro again.

1/24/2012	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
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Mr. Pandolfo noted that a bid was conducted seven years ago when Blum Shapiro was engaged by the Town. Previous audit firms engage by the Town were Deloitte and Touche (1988-1992); Scully and Wolf (1993-1997); McGladrey and Pullan (1998-2004); and Blum Shapiro (2005-2012). Mayor Somers noted that she would not support the motion because she feels the Town should go out to bid.

2012-0032	2012 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course and Amendment to Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities	Referral
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RESOLUTION SETTING 2012 RATES FOR THE SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE AND APPROVING REVISED REGULATIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Golf Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission have endorsed a number of changes to the fees for the Shennecossett Golf Course 2012 playing season, and

WHEREAS, additional recommendations include extending the weekend rate to include Friday and modifications to the Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities reflecting the changes, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the municipal golf course rates for the 2012 playing season shall be the rates as attached to this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the revised Regulations for Parks and Recreation

Facilities as noted above and endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their December 2011 meeting.

Legislative History

1/18/2012 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

1/24/2012 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Doug Ackerman, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, and Todd Goodhue and Eric Morrison of Shennecossett Golf Course were present to discuss the proposed golf course rates for 2012. The rates were developed based on staff recommendations and discussions with the Golf Advisory Board. Mr. Ackerman reviewed proposed changes including a 3% increase in season passes; a \$1.00 increase in weekday rates for non-residents; extension of weekend rates to include Fridays; a \$1.00 in rates after 12 noon; a 20% reduction in twilight fees; and a \$1.00 increase in winter rates. The rates have been endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Councilor Flax asked how business has been with the mild weather. Mr. Ackerman stated the golf course is on target with revenue projections. Mr. Morrison distributed monthly reports for November and December. Discussion followed on the New London Golf Club and attracting former members to Shennecossett. Councilor Streeter suggested an incentive. Mr. Goodhue stated that Shennecossett's rates are already very competitive and giving an incentive may have a negative impact on existing members.

Discussion followed on the increase in rates versus the potential loss of players. Mr. Ackerman stated that he feels the increase can be absorbed, especially considering there was no increase last year. Mr. Goodhue noted that staff is very sensitive to the competition's rates, which is why there has been an attempt to balance the rates rather than making an across the board increase. Discussion followed on coupon offers and apportionment of the fees between carts and rounds.

1/24/2012 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the proposed changes to the Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities are associated with the rate changes.

2012-0036

City of Groton FYE 2011 CIP Reallocation

Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CITY OF GROTON

WHEREAS, the City of Groton requested \$551,695 in the FYE 2011 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for pavement management program implementation and specifically identified roads for repaving in the Groton Estates development, and

WHEREAS, the project funding was reduced to \$250,000 during the budget approval process, and

WHEREAS, the City has indicated that it would not be cost effective to do a partial repaving project in the established Groton Estates neighborhood, and

WHEREAS, the City has requested that the \$250,000 be reallocated to other street pavement projects, specifically West Elderkin Avenue and Mitchell Street from Baker Avenue to Park Avenue and one or two adjoining roads if there are remaining funds, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the reallocation of the funding (\$250,000) for pavement management program implementation in the City from the roads in Groton Estates (identified in Project 1)A2) of the FYE 2011 to FYE 2016 Capital Improvement Program) to West Elderkin Avenue and Mitchell Street from Baker Avenue to Park Avenue, along with adjoining roads if there are funds remaining.

Legislative History

1/19/2012 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

1/24/2012 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

See discussion under 2012-0034 FYE 2013 Budget Requests - City of Groton in the 1/24/12 Committee of the Whole minutes.

1/24/2012 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2012-0042 Public Hearing on the FYE 2013 Proposed Budget Referral

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON FYE 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the FYE 2013 Proposed Budget, pursuant to Section 9.3.1 of the Town Charter, on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road (Route 117), Groton, Connecticut.

Legislative History

1/24/2012 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2012-0045 USS Groton Sail Committee Referral

RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ACQUIRING THE SAIL OF THE USS GROTON

WHEREAS, the Town Council approved a Resolution Authorizing a Committee to Study the Feasibility of Acquiring the Sail of the USS Groton on September 4, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Committee was never appointed or convened, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall appoint a committee to study and make recommendations to the Town Council concerning the feasibility, cost, permitting requirements, and logistics of obtaining the USS Groton's sail and propeller, and to make recommendations concerning one or more appropriate locations for their permanent display. Membership on the committee may include, but not be limited to, the Town Council, Groton Sub Base, Electric Boat, Nautilus Chapter of Subvets, and the Submarine Force Museum.

Legislative History

1/24/2012 Town Council Economic Recommended for a
Development Committee Resolution

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT